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Environmental Cleanup Office

January 12, 2004

Chip Humphrey
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
811 SW 6th Avenue, 3rd Floor
Portland, OR 97204

Tara Martich
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Ave, M/S ECL-115
Seattle, WA 98104

**Re: Lower Willamette River, Portland Harbor Superfund Site
USEPA Docket No: CERCLA-10-2001-0240
Monthly Progress Report for December 2003**

Dear Mr. Humphrey and Ms. Martich:

This monthly status report contains information required by the Portland Harbor Superfund Site Administrative Order on Consent.

1. ACTIONS TAKEN IN DECEMBER 2003

The following activities were taken in December 2003 to comply with the AOC:

- The Round 2 Field Sampling Plan (FSP) for sediment sampling and benthic toxicity testing was completed and submitted to EPA on December 22.
- The November 2003 Monthly Progress Report was submitted to EPA.

2. RESULTS OF SAMPLING, TESTS AND OTHER DATA RECEIVED

No results of sampling, tests, or other data were received in December.

3. SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

The work described in the AOC that is planned for the months of January and February 2004 includes:

- Prepare and submit a Round 2 FSP addendum for beach sediment incorporating EPA's alternate approach for shorebird ecorisk assessment that was received on December 10.
- Prepare and submit a revised Hydrodynamic/Sedimentation Modeling Approach Technical Memorandum incorporating EPA comments that were received on December 23.
- Prepare and submit a Round 2 FSP addendum for subsurface sediment incorporating the results of a sample location reconnaissance effort and pending EPA comments on the recently submitted Round 2 FSP for sediment sampling and benthic toxicity testing.
- Prepare and submit a Round 2 FSP addendum for surface water incorporating EPA comments that were received on December 19.



Pending products currently under preparation by LWG and scheduled for submittal over the next two months are listed in Table 1.

4. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED, ANTICIPATED DELAYS AND SOLUTIONS

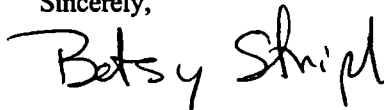
The LWG received a letter from EPA on October 23, 2003 directing the LWG to perform further validation and quality assurance review of Round 1 tissue sample analytical results. The LWG is re-evaluating chlorinated pesticides analytical results for tissues and plans to discuss those results with EPA QA staff when the results are available in early January 2004. The impact of EPA's October 23, 2003 requests and ongoing data validation efforts on the Round 1 data evaluation and reporting schedule remains unclear.

5. DOCUMENTS AND ISSUES AWAITING EPA RESPONSE

EPA comments or approvals have not been received on a number of milestones and documents that have been submitted to EPA as required by the AOC; these documents and milestones are listed in Table 2. The LWG requests document/milestone approvals to verify that the terms of the AOC are being met and issues are resolved to maintain progress on the RI/FS.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (206) 241-5185.

Sincerely,



Betsy Striplin

RI/FS Coordinator

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 Eric Blischke, EPA (email only)
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 Brian Cunningham, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (email only)
 Paul Ward, Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation (email only)
 Rod Thompson, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (email only)
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 Rick Eichstaedt, Nez Perce Tribe (email only)
 Valerie Lee, Environment International (email only)
 LWG Repository

Table 1. Status of LWG Products Pending Delivery to EPA (January/February 2004).

Deliverable/Milestone Description	Status	Review/Submittal Dates
Cultural Resources Technical Memorandum	Awaiting Statement of Work from EPA	Pending
Further data validation and quality assurance review of Round 1 tissue sample analysis results	Ongoing	Pending
<u>Round 2 Beach Sediment FSP Addendum</u>	<u>In preparation</u>	<u>To be determined</u>
<u>Revised Hydrodynamic/Sedimentation Modeling Approach Technical Memorandum</u>	<u>In preparation</u>	<u>January 30, 2004</u>
<u>Round 2A Subsurface Sediment FSP Addendum</u>	<u>In preparation</u>	<u>To be determined</u>
<u>Round 2 Surface Water FSP Addendum</u>	<u>In preparation</u>	<u>February 19, 2004</u>

Underline indicates text change from November 2003 Monthly Progress Report.

Table 2. Status of Portland Harbor Deliverables that are Under EPA Review (December 31, 2003).

Deliverable/Milestone Description	Date of Draft Deliverable or Request	Date EPA Comments Received	Status/Action Taken
Technical Memorandum: Proposed Database Approach	December 20, 2001	Pending	Pending
Technical Memorandum: Data Quality Objectives for Historical Data	December 20, 2001	Pending	Pending
STA/Historic Bathymetry Integration Report	April 26, 2002	Pending	Pending
SPI Survey	April 26, 2002	Pending	Pending
Historical Database	April 26, 2002	Pending	Pending
Plant and Amphibian Reconnaissance Survey Technical Memorandum	February 2003	Pending	Pending
Seep Reconnaissance Technical Memorandum	February 18, 2003	Pending	Pending
Summer 2002 Bathymetry Data Report	February 26, 2003	Pending	Pending
Summary of Round 1 Field Activities	February 28, 2003	Pending	Pending
Programmatic Work Plan	March 31, 2003	July 25, 2003	Revised Draft Final Work Plan submitted November 13, 2003
Adult Lamprey Harvest Technical Memorandum	April 4, 2003	Pending	Pending
Hydrodynamic/Sedimentation Modeling Approach Technical Memorandum	April 4, 2003	<u>December 23, 2003</u>	<u>Revised Hydrodynamic/Sedimentation Modeling Approach Technical Memorandum in preparation</u>

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Round 2A Field Sampling Plan	April 17, 2003	November 6, 2003	<u>Revised Round 2 FSP submitted December 22, 2003</u>
Proposed Fish Consumption Rates Technical Memorandum	May 9, 2003	Pending	Pending
2002 Sediment Stake Erosion/Accretion Monitoring Report	May 15, 2003	Pending	Pending
Response to EPA comments on Round 1 RI/FS Work Plan and Field Sampling Plan	May 16, 2003	Pending	Pending
(Revised) Benthic Analysis Approach Technical Memorandum	May 20, 2003	November 6, 2003	Revised Benthic Analysis Approach Technical Memorandum in preparation
Historical Chemistry Data Category Reclassification Technical Memorandum	May 30, 2003	Pending	Pending
Upland Groundwater Data Review Report	June 2, 2003	Pending	Pending
Framework for Evaluating Exposure to the Benthic Community and Humans from Chemicals Transported in Groundwater	August 1, 2003	Pending	Pending
Verbal request from LWG for copies of Revised RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan comments from EPA partners	August 22, 2003	Pending	Pending
Revised Interim Draft RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan	September 26, 2003	Pending	Pending

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Proposed Submittal Schedule for Technical Memoranda	September 26, 2003	Pending	Pending
Round 1 Tissue Sample Collection and Archive Information Summary Tables	October 22, 2003	Pending	Pending
Revised Draft Final RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan	November 13, 2003	Pending	Pending
<u>Round 2 Field Sampling Plan, Sediment Sampling and Benthic Toxicity Testing</u>	<u>December 22, 2003</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Pending</u>

Underline indicates text change from December 2003 Monthly Progress Report.

Shading indicates action completed. Completed actions will be deleted after one month.